

Carnival Cruise Returns To Baltimore News

The Baltimore Sun

Carnival reverses plan to depart Baltimore port

By Kevin Rector, The Baltimore Sun

Updated: 6:00 p.m. EST, January 30, 2014

Pride will only leave the port of Baltimore for a few months.

Carnival Cruise Lines announced Thursday that its Carnival Pride cruise liner will return to the port of Baltimore in March 2015, after only a brief stint in Florida, thanks to new technologies that will help the ship meet federal emissions standards.

Its return limits the economic impact of a decision in June, when the Miami-based company said it would move the Pride to Tampa starting in November 2014 due to increased costs of operating in coastal waters under the new regulations.

It also allows the world's largest cruise company to continue tapping the lucrative customer market in the Baltimore-Washington region. It secures hundreds of jobs at the port, where the line's business produces an estimated \$50 million a year in economic value to the state, officials said.

"We're really excited that things have worked out so that we'll be able to return," said Terry Thornton, Carnival's senior vice president. "The Baltimore market is really important to us."

The Pride will depart in October for Tampa, where it will be drydocked through November as emission controls and other upgrades are installed, Thornton said. It will operate out of Tampa until March 2015, when it will return to Baltimore.

Gov. Martin O'Malley, who announced the decision along with Carnival and port of Baltimore officials in Annapolis, said in a statement that retaining the cruise line in the state "will keep family-supporting jobs in Maryland and allow a greener Carnival Pride to return to this thriving cruise market."

The Pride became the first ship to operate year-round cruises out of the port of Baltimore in 2009, launching an industry that now supports about \$90 million in economic activity each year, including hotel reservations, restaurant dining and other local spending, according to O'Malley's office.

The other ship operating out of the Cruise Maryland terminal in Locust Point is Royal Caribbean's Grandeur of the Seas.

Last summer, however, Carnival decided to move the Pride to Tampa after the Environmental Protection Agency and the Coast Guard outlined new standards for limiting emissions from ships in coastal waters.

Under international environmental regulations, cruise and cargo vessels must use ultra-low-sulfur diesel fuel or install equipment that "scrubs" or cleans fuel exhaust in coastal waters, bringing it to acceptable emission levels before it is emitted into the air. The burning of so-called "bunker" fuel — an inexpensive fuel high in sulfur — by ships is considered a leading source of pollution in ports around the world.

The International Maritime Organization already requires oceangoing ships to burn low-sulfur fuel within 200 nautical miles of U.S. and Canadian coasts. And starting in 2015, ships are supposed to burn fuel with 90 percent less sulfur.

The EPA has said the emissions limits will prevent thousands of premature deaths nationwide and save millions in health care costs for treating respiratory illnesses associated with the particles and gases released when cruise liners and other ships burn low-grade fuel.

Cruises out of Baltimore, which travel out of the Chesapeake Bay and down the coast, spend much of their time in coastal waters where the new standards will apply. Cruises out of Tampa generally spend just a few hours in coastal waters, Thornton said.

Thornton said Carnival already uses fuel with lower sulfur in Baltimore, but scheduled the shift to Tampa because it feared it would be unable to meet the full EPA requirements in time to operate cruises out of Baltimore in 2015.

"It was more of a timing issue than anything else," he said, noting cruises out of Baltimore have been wildly successful and were never something Carnival wanted to abandon.

While it is drydocked in a shipyard, the Pride will be retrofitted with pollution controls to limit its sulfur emissions, Thornton said, including "scrubbing" technology to directly remove the pollutant from exhaust gases.

With the state-of-the-art emissions control technology in place, Carnival will be eager to get the 2,124-passenger Pride back into the Baltimore market, he said.

Cruises out of Baltimore are routinely full, and a higher percentage of their passengers are first-time cruisers, which Thornton described as a "really important" demographic. The Baltimore trips are also accessible to millions of people who don't like to first fly to a southern destination to reach a departing ship.

"All of that just goes away," Thornton said. "We get so many emails, so many letters, so many comments from our guests saying how convenient and affordable it is to sail from Baltimore."

The news of the Pride's quick return to Baltimore was cheered by port officials, who have been working since the summer to bring Carnival back, and see growing potential in Baltimore's cruise industry.

"Professionally and personally, I'm very pleased," said James White, executive director of the Maryland Port Administration.

Every single cruise out of Maryland provides about \$1 million in economic impact to the state, White said, and the port is looking forward to more than 100 cruises in 2015 — about half on the Grandeur of the Seas and half on the Pride.

"We're real happy about it," White said, "and we're going to continue to grow this business."

Riker "Rocky" McKenzie, president of the International Longshoremen's Association Local 333, one of the port's ILA locals that work cruise ships and the union that has been clashing with port employers over labor issues, welcomed the news that work on the Pride will continue into the future.

"If we have federal regulations and rules that require certain environmental standards be met, I think it's admirable of them to come into compliance," McKenzie said.

Environmentalists who have long criticized the cruise industry's pollution welcomed the planned emissions upgrades on the Pride.

"It's positive news that the ship will be equipped with pollution controls," said Frank O'Donnell, head of the Washington lobby group Clean Air Watch. "That means cruises can resume without filthy air wafting across the Baltimore area."

Last summer, state officials attempted to intercede with the EPA on Carnival's behalf to speed the approval process of its new emissions technology.

O'Donnell said O'Malley let himself be used by Carnival in what he called "an attempt to squeeze the EPA and to try to intimidate them."

An O'Malley spokeswoman at the time said that if "jobs are at stake, the governor is going to go to bat for those jobs."

The first Pride cruise out of Baltimore after the Tampa stint is scheduled to depart March 29, Thornton said, and passengers will see more than better air quality.

During its drydocking, the ship will also receive major renovations to its on-board amenities as part of Carnival's \$500 million fleetwide investment known as Fun Ship 2.0, he said.

The new and improved Pride will feature a Guy's Burger Joint developed by Food Network personality Guy Fieri; a Bonsai Sushi; an EA Sports Bar; and a Blue Iguana Tequila Bar.

The ship's water park will get an upgrade, notably with the installation of the Green Thunder, which Carnival touts as "the steepest and fastest water slide at sea."

"We're going to add just a significant number of new features and amenities to the ship," Thornton said.

Baltimore Business Journal

Carnival Pride to resume Baltimore cruises in 2015 after brief exit

Ryan Sharrow

Carnival Cruise Lines plans to bring back its Pride ship to Baltimore in 2015 following a brief departure stemming from new federal fuel regulations.

The world's largest cruise company said last year it would reposition the cruise this November from the Port of Baltimore to Tampa, Fla., where the boat will begin seven-day cruises to Grand Cayman and Cozumel.

Those plans will continue. But following approval in September by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Coast Guard of Carnival's plan to reduce ship emissions, the ship will again start year-round cruises from Baltimore beginning in March 2015.

Upon its return, the Carnival Pride will be equipped with exhaust gas-cleaning technology, known as scrubbers. Scrubbers are designed to reduce air emissions from cruise ships and other marine vessels, and come in response to the new regulations.

The 2,100-passenger Pride will again operate out of the South Locust Point cruise terminal to ports in the Bahamas, Eastern Caribbean and Central Florida.

The ship will also return with new dining and entertainment options, including a water park and Guy's Burger Joint, a concept from Food Network personality Guy Fieri.

The ship started year-round cruises out of Baltimore in 2009 and its return will be a major boon for the port.

The boat carries more than 115,000 passengers a year through Baltimore. Carnival (NYSE: CCL) and Royal Caribbean are the two cruise lines that sail out of Baltimore.

The Port of Baltimore saw 240,676 passengers depart on 100 cruises in 2012. Baltimore ranked as the 11th-largest departure port in the U.S. and the fifth-largest departure port on the East Coast in 2011. Miami ranked No. 1 with about 1.97 million passengers.

Cruising has a \$90 million economic impact on the state of Maryland and generates 220 direct jobs, according to the Maryland Port Administration. If the Carnival ship was not replaced, that economic impact would have dropped to \$45 million annually.

The success of cruising out of Baltimore has triggered talk of adding a second cruise terminal.

The Washington Post

Carnival Cruise Lines to return to Baltimore

By Associated Press, Published: January 30

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Carnival Cruise Lines is returning to the Port of Baltimore.

Gov. Martin O'Malley announced Thursday that the cruise line will resume seven-day, year-round cruises beginning in March 2015.

The return comes after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Coast Guard approved Carnival's plan to reduce ship emissions.

The O'Malley administration says the Carnival Pride ship will return to Maryland with new air-emission reduction technologies.

The Maryland Port Administration says 500 jobs are generated by cruise activity in Maryland. That includes 220 direct jobs at the Port of Baltimore.

Carnival is based near Miami.

Copyright 2014 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

The Daily Record

Carnival Cruise Lines to return to Baltimore

Carnival Cruise Lines is returning to the Port of Baltimore.

Gov. Martin O'Malley announced Thursday the cruise line will resume seven-day, year-round cruises beginning in March 2015.

The return comes after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Coast Guard approved Carnival's plan to reduce ship emissions.

The O'Malley administration says the Carnival Pride ship will return to Maryland with new air emission reduction technologies.

The Maryland Port Administration says 500 jobs are generated by cruise activity in Maryland. They include 220 direct jobs at the Port of Baltimore.

WBAL-TV

Carnival Cruise Lines to return to Baltimore

12:08 PM EST Jan 30, 2014

Carnival Cruise Lines is returning to the Port of Baltimore.

Gov. Martin O'Malley announced Thursday the cruise line will resume seven-day year-round cruises beginning in March 2015.

The return comes after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Coast Guard approved Carnival's plan to reduce ship emissions.

The O'Malley administration said the Carnival Pride ship will return to Maryland with new air emission reduction technologies. The ship left the port at the beginning of this year and will be docked in Tampa until it returns to Baltimore.

The Maryland Port Administration said 500 jobs are generated by cruise activity in Maryland. They include 220 direct jobs at the Port of Baltimore.

Fox 45 Baltimore

Carnival Cruise Lines Returning to Baltimore in March 2015

Updated: Thursday, January 30 2014, 05:11 PM EST

Carnival Cruise Lines will return to the Port of Baltimore with seven-day, year-round cruises beginning on March 29, 2015. Governor O'Malley announced the resumption of service on Thursday. Carnival in June announced it would "reposition" from Baltimore to launch cruises from Tampa from December 2014-April 2015. "We are pleased to welcome Carnival Cruise Lines back to Maryland and the Carnival Pride cruise ship back to the Port of Baltimore," Governor O'Malley said. "Our Administration, along with our Congressional Delegation, has a proven track record of advocating for a strong, healthy environment and fighting for high-quality jobs for Maryland families. I'm pleased Carnival and the Environmental Protection Agency and Coast Guard have agreed on a plan that will keep family-supporting jobs in Maryland and allow a greener Carnival Pride to return to this thriving cruise market." The ship will return to Maryland with new air emission reduction technologies. The Carnival Pride has been based in Baltimore since 2009 and will remain at the Port through October 2014 before heading to Florida to be retrofitted with new emission reduction technologies. The 2,124-passenger ship will serve destinations in the Caribbean, Bahamas, and Central Florida from Baltimore.

WYPR News

Carnival Won't Quit Baltimore After All

By Christopher Connelly

Carnival Cruise Lines announced today that it is reversing its decision to leave the Port of Baltimore. Instead, Carnival's Baltimore-based cruise liner will take a short hiatus to be upgraded.

In June, Carnival said it would stop running cruises out of Baltimore. Complying with new, stricter environmental standards would be too costly, the company said.

The Baltimore-based ship Carnival Pride will still leave for Florida in November, but just until it can be upgraded to meet with the new EPA standards. It will be back in Baltimore to resume operations in early 2015.

Carnival Pride is just one of 32 ships in the company's fleet that will be retrofitted with new scrubber technology to produce cleaner emissions, at a price tag of about \$180 million total. It will also get upgraded facilities, including new restaurants.

Terry Thornton from Carnival says sailing from Baltimore attracts new customers from nearby states. "They can hop in their car, they can be here quickly, the port operates very efficiently for them," says Thornton. "And once they park their car, their vacation starts."

The cruising industry accounts for about 500 jobs in Maryland, about 220 of them directly at the port.

USA Today

Carnival to return to Baltimore in 2015

Gene Sloan, USA TODAY 12:02 p.m. EST January 30, 2014

Industry giant Carnival will return to Baltimore in early 2015.

The world's largest cruise line today announced it would resume year-round sailings from the port on the 2,124-passenger Carnival Pride.

Carnival currently offers sailings from Baltimore on the Pride, but the ship is scheduled to move to Tampa in October, leaving the line without a vessel in the city for the first time in years.

Carnival announced in June that it was pulling the Pride from Baltimore due to new environmental regulations that would make operating from the port less profitable. Carnival has since reached a deal with federal regulators that will exempt vessels such as the Pride from the regulations as long as the ships receive new pollution-reducing exhaust scrubbers.

Carnival says the Pride will offer two seven-night itineraries out of Baltimore after it returns on March 29, 2015. The first features stops in Grand Turk; Freeport, Bahamas; and Half Moon Cay, a private island in the Bahamas. The second has stops in Port Canaveral, Fla. (near Orlando); and Nassau and Freeport in the Bahamas.

As per its agreement with federal regulators, Carnival says the Carnival Pride will be outfitted with new pollution-reducing scrubbers before it returns to Baltimore.

For a look inside a Carnival ship, click through the carousel below.

Huffington Post

Carnival Cruise Lines to return to Baltimore

Carnival Cruise Lines is returning to the Port of Baltimore.

Gov. Martin O'Malley announced Thursday the cruise line will resume seven-day, year-round cruises beginning in March 2015.

The return comes after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Coast Guard approved Carnival's plan to reduce ship emissions.

The O'Malley administration says the Carnival Pride ship will return to Maryland with new air emission reduction technologies.

The Maryland Port Administration says 500 jobs are generated by cruise activity in Maryland. They include 220 direct jobs at the Port of Baltimore.

Travel Agent Central

Carnival Cruise Lines to Resume Year-Round Service From Baltimore in 2015

January 30, 2014

(Also seen in Newman PR)

Carnival Cruise Lines and the Port of Baltimore have announced that the cruise line will resume year-round departures from Baltimore when the *Carnival Pride* begins seven-day cruises in March 2015.

Carnival Pride is currently based in Baltimore where it will remain through October 2014 before repositioning to Tampa for a winter cruise schedule. The ship will return to Baltimore for year-round service in March 2015, hosting nearly 120,000 guests annually.

In anticipation of *Carnival Pride's* return to Baltimore, the ship will undergo an extensive multi-million-dollar makeover in fall 2014 that will add a host of dining, bar and entertainment innovations that are part of the line's \$500 million Fun Ship 2.0 product enhancement program.

Carnival Pride, like several other Carnival Cruise Lines ships, will be outfitted with exhaust gas cleaning technology – known as scrubbers –designed to reduce air emissions from cruise ships and large marine vessels. Scrubber technology will be installed on *Carnival Pride* prior to its Baltimore deployment in spring 2015. This new technology will enable the *Carnival Pride* to exceed the stricter air emission standards established for operation within the North American Emission Control Area (ECA).

On its year-round deployment from Baltimore, *Carnival Pride* will offer two different itineraries with voyages departing every Sunday beginning March 29, 2015. Week-long eastern Caribbean cruises will visit Grand Turk, the private Bahamian island of Half Moon Cay and Freeport, The

Bahamas, while a Florida/Bahamas schedule will call in Port Canaveral, Fla. (Orlando), and Nassau and Freeport, The Bahamas.

Additionally, prior to its Baltimore deployment, *Carnival Pride* will operate a 14-day repositioning cruise departing Tampa March 15 and arriving Baltimore March 29, 2015. The one-time voyage will visit destinations in the Caribbean and Central America, including George Town, Grand Cayman; Limon, Costa Rica; Colon, Panama; Aruba; Curacao; and St. Maarten, Netherlands Antilles. Optional excursions to the Panama Canal will be featured during the call in Colon.

“Baltimore is a convenient mid-Atlantic embarkation point for ‘Fun Ship’ cruising and we’re pleased to resume these attractive year-round departures which offer our guests an opportunity to visit a variety of beautiful, tropical destinations,” said Gerry Cahill, Carnival’s president and CEO. “We would like to extend our thanks to officials from the port and the state of Maryland for their outstanding support in our efforts to resume year-round cruising from Baltimore.”

“We are pleased to welcome Carnival Cruise Lines back to Maryland and the *Carnival Pride* cruise ship back to the Port of Baltimore,” said Governor Martin O’Malley. “Our Administration has a proven track record of advocating for a strong, healthy environment and fighting for high-quality jobs for Maryland families. I’m pleased Carnival and the Environmental Protection Agency and Coast Guard have agreed on a plan that will keep family-supporting jobs in Maryland and allow a cleaner and even greener *Carnival Pride* to return to this thriving cruise market.”

Carnival Pride will undergo a three-week dry dock from October 19 to November 9, 2014, during which it will be outfitted with a variety of Fun Ship 2.0 additions, including:

- Guy’s Burger Joint, a free-of-charge poolside venue developed in partnership with Food Network personality Guy Fieri serving hand-crafted burgers and fresh-cut fries
- Blueelguana Cantina, a complimentary poolside Mexican eatery where guests can enjoy burritos and tacos on tortillas that can be personalized with a variety of salsas and toppings
- Bonsai Sushi, a full-service sushi restaurant offering
- WaterWorks, highlighted by the Green Thunder water slide, as well as the line’s signature Twister slide and a spray park
- Hasbro, The Game Show, where guests are part of the show through a series of productions and entertainment activities based on the company’s popular games
- Playlist Productions live performances
- EA Sports Bar, where guests can catch live sporting events, check out scores on the real-time 24/7 sports ticker, and play the latest EA Sports games on a 16-screen video wall
- Blueelguana Tequila Bar, an outdoor watering hole offering tequila-based frozen drinks and beers
- Alchemy Bar, a vintage-themed cocktail “pharmacy”

- RedFrog Pub, where guests can enjoy Caribbean rums and beers – along with Carnival’s own ThirstyFrog Red private label draft brew – and island-inspired pub fare
- RedFrog Rum Bar, a poolside adaptation of the RedFrog Pub offering Caribbean rum-based frozen drinks and beers, including ThirstyFrog Red
- The Library Bar, offering self-serve wine dispensers and full bar service
- Cherry On Top, which offers bins of bulk candy, gifts and novelties, custom apparel and more

Cruise Industry News

Carnival Announces Baltimore Return

30 January 2014

Carnival Cruise Lines and the Port of Baltimore today announced that the cruise line will resume year-round departures from Baltimore when the 2,124-passenger Carnival Pride begins seven-day cruises in spring 2015.

Carnival Pride is currently based in Baltimore where it will remain through October 2014 then reposition to Tampa for a winter cruise schedule before returning to Baltimore for year-round service in March 2015, hosting nearly 120,000 guests annually.

In anticipation of Carnival Pride’s return to Baltimore, the ship will undergo an extensive multi-million-dollar makeover in fall 2014 that will add a host of dining, bar and entertainment innovations that are part of the line’s \$500 million Fun Ship 2.0 product enhancement program.

In addition to the new on-board features, Carnival Pride is one of several Carnival Cruise Lines ships that will be outfitted with exhaust gas cleaning technology – known as scrubbers – designed to reduce air emissions from cruise ships and large marine vessels.

Scrubber technology will be installed on Carnival Pride prior to its Baltimore deployment in spring 2015.

This new technology will enable the Carnival Pride to exceed the stricter air emission standards established for operation within the North American Emission Control Area (ECA).

“Baltimore is a convenient mid-Atlantic embarkation point for ‘Fun Ship’ cruising and we’re pleased to resume these attractive year-round departures which offer our guests an opportunity to visit a variety of beautiful, tropical destinations,” said Gerry Cahill, Carnival’s president and CEO. “We would like to extend our thanks to officials from the port and the state of Maryland for their outstanding support in our efforts to resume year-round cruising from Baltimore,” he added.

“We are pleased to welcome Carnival Cruise Lines back to Maryland and the Carnival Pride cruise ship back to the Port of Baltimore,” said Governor Martin O’Malley. “Our Administration has a proven track record of advocating for a strong, healthy environment and fighting for high-

quality jobs for Maryland families. I'm pleased Carnival and the Environmental Protection Agency and Coast Guard have agreed on a plan that will keep family-supporting jobs in Maryland and allow a cleaner and even greener Carnival Pride to return to this thriving cruise market."

On its year-round deployment from Baltimore, Carnival Pride will offer two distinctly different itineraries with voyages departing every Sunday beginning March 29, 2015. Week-long exotic eastern Caribbean cruises will visit Grand Turk, the private Bahamian island of Half Moon Cay and Freeport, The Bahamas, while a Florida/Bahamas schedule will feature Port Canaveral, Fla. (Orlando), and Nassau and Freeport, The Bahamas.

Prior to its Baltimore deployment, Carnival Pride will operate a 14-day repositioning cruise departing Tampa March 15 and arriving Baltimore March 29, 2015.

The special one-time voyage will feature six magnificent seaside destinations throughout the Caribbean and Central America, including George Town, Grand Cayman; Limon, Costa Rica; Colon, Panama; Aruba; Curacao; and St. Maarten, Netherlands Antilles. Each of these destinations offers gorgeous beaches, interesting historical sites and myriad dining, shopping and sightseeing opportunities. Optional excursions to the spectacular Panama Canal will be featured during the call in Colon.

The Miami Herald

Carnival Cruise Lines, Port of Baltimore Announce Resumption of Year-Round Service from Baltimore in March 2015

By Hannah Sampson

The Carnival Pride is still leaving Baltimore later this year, but it won't be gone for long.

Doral-based Carnival Cruise Lines announced Thursday that the 2,124-passenger ship will return year-round to Baltimore in spring of 2015, following a major upgrade and a winter season in Tampa.

In June, the cruise operator announced it was pulling out of Baltimore, where a ship had been based year-round since 2009, and Norfolk. A key reason: strict environmental requirements that go into effect in 2015 limiting the sulfur content in fuel that cruise ships burn off North American coasts.

Since then, Carnival Corp. has announced it is investing more than \$180 million in new technology to clean fuel exhaust on nearly a third of its fleet. Carnival Pride is one of the ships that will have the "scrubbers" that will allow it to meet the air emission standards.

The ship will also get a host of new restaurants, bars and other venues as part of the Fun Ship 2.0 initiative. Those include Guy's Burger Joint; BlueIguana Cantina and BlueIguana Tequila Bar;

Bonsai Sushi; EA Sports Bar; Hasbro The Game Show, and WaterWorks, a water slide and spray park.

Carnival Pride will leave Baltimore in October and undergo dry dock renovations for three weeks. After sailing from Tampa for the winter, the ship will return to Baltimore in March of 2015.

The cruise line has also announced that it will return to Norfolk in the spring and fall of 2015, but information on the ship, date or itinerary has not been released.

Post-Bulletin News

Carnival Cruise Lines to return to Baltimore

Posted: Thursday, January 30, 2014 11:20 am

Associated Press

(Also seen in ABC News, Minneapolis Star Tribune and CBS News)

Carnival Cruise Lines is returning to the Port of Baltimore.

Gov. Martin O'Malley announced Thursday that the cruise line will resume seven-day, year-round cruises beginning in March 2015.

The return comes after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Coast Guard approved Carnival's plan to reduce ship emissions.

The O'Malley administration says the Carnival Pride ship will return to Maryland with new air-emission reduction technologies.

The Maryland Port Administration says 500 jobs are generated by cruise activity in Maryland. That includes 220 direct jobs at the Port of Baltimore.

Carnival is based near Miami.

Travel Weekly

Carnival Pride will be back in Baltimore after Tampa stint

By Tom Stieghorst

Carnival Cruise Lines said it plans to return to Baltimore in the spring of 2015, with year-round cruises on the Carnival Pride.

Carnival's future in Baltimore became uncertain when the cruise line said late last year that Pride would go to Tampa in October 2014.

At the time, Carnival cited concerns about the expense associated with the North American Emissions Control Area for curtailing operations at several East Coast ports.

Carnival recently announced it would resume seasonal sailings from Norfolk, Va., where it is the only line that offers roundtrip cruises.

In Baltimore, Carnival competes with Royal Caribbean International, which currently homeports the Grandeur of the Seas there.

Carnival said the Pride will get a multimillion-dollar makeover in fall 2014 that will add a host of dining, bar and entertainment innovations that are part of the Funship 2.0 package.

Two seven-day itineraries will be available from Baltimore, a Florida-Bahamas route and an Eastern Caribbean one.

Carnival expects to carry 120,000 guests a year from Baltimore on the 2,124-passenger ship.

Cruise Fever

Carnival Cruise Line Headed Back to Port of Baltimore

January 30, 2014 by Ben Souza

Two weeks ago, the governor of Virginia announced that a Carnival Cruise Line ship would begin sailing from the port in Norfolk in 2015. Today, Carnival Cruise Line announced that they will be returning to the Port of Baltimore when the Carnival Pride returns in early 2015 sailing 7 night cruises to the Caribbean and Bahamas.

Before the Pride relocates to Baltimore, the ship will receive the popular Fun Ship 2.0 upgrades. The 2.0 upgrades include Guy's (Fieri) Burger Joint, Punchliner Comedy Club Presented by George Lopez, BlueIguana Cantina, EA Sports Bar, the Alchemy Bar, and RedFrog Rum Bar.

In addition to the 2.0 upgrades, the Pride will also be outfitted with scrubbers, an exhaust gas cleaning technology that will help reduce air emissions and will be more environmentally friendly.

The ship will sail two different seven night itineraries. The first will have stops in the ports of Grand Turk, Half Moon Cay (private island), and Freeport, Bahamas. The second itinerary will feature stops in Port Canaveral, Florida; Nassau, Bahamas; and Freeport, Bahamas.

Governor Martin O'Malley released a statement that he was very pleased that Carnival was coming back to Baltimore. The combination of high quality jobs in the cruise port and a cleaner and greener cruise ship point to a bright future for the cruise industry in Baltimore.

Before the Pride moves to Baltimore, the ship will offer a truly unique one way re-positioning cruise. This 14 night cruise will leave from Tampa, Florida and have stops in Grand Cayman, Costa Rica, Panama, Aruba, and St. Maarten.

The ship has previously sailed from Long Beach, California; Miami, Florida; and Baltimore, Maryland. The Pride will relocate to Tampa, Florida in October 2014 before returning back to Baltimore.

The Carnival Pride is a 2,100 passenger ship that began service in early 2002. The 88,500 gross ton vessel has 12 decks and a crew of nearly 1,000 workers.

Cruise Critic

Carnival Will Return to Baltimore With Upgraded Ship and New Technology

Carnival has changed its plans for Carnival Pride. It will only spend a few months in Tampa before returning to its Baltimore homeport with upgraded onboard amenities and environmental technology.

The ship, which was scheduled to leave its Baltimore homeport for cruises out of Tampa from December 2014 through April 2015, will instead sail from Baltimore through mid-October 2014, reposition to Tampa, then return to Baltimore in March 2015 for year-round cruises to the Eastern Caribbean and Florida and the Bahamas. It's adding a one-time 14-night repositioning cruise departing Tampa on March 15, 2015, which will sail through the Caribbean and Central America (including optional excursions to the Panama Canal) before returning to Baltimore. Carnival has yet to say which ship, if any, will replace Pride in Tampa.

From October 19 to November 9, 2014, Pride will be in dry dock to receive a Fun Ship 2.0 makeover. It will get new eating and drinking venues such as Guy's Burger Joint, BlueIguana Cantina and Tequila Bar, Bonsai Sushi, EA SPORTS Bar, Alchemy Bar, RedFrog Pub and Rum Bar, and the Library Bar. Other additions include the WaterWorks water park, Playlist Productions, Cherry on Top, and Hasbro, the Game Show.

In addition, Pride will receive some new environmental technology called scrubbers that will help the ship comply with the new air emission standards required for cruising within the North American Emission Control Area (ECA). The ship will add this new exhaust gas cleaning technology in spring 2015; other Carnival ships will be receiving scrubbers as well.

Expert Cruiser

Carnival Pride is coming back to Baltimore in 2015

Posted by Anita Dunham-Potter On January - 30 - 2014

Carnival Cruise Lines and the Port of Baltimore today announced that the cruise line will resume year-round departures from Baltimore when the 2,124-passenger Carnival Pride begins seven-day cruises in spring 2015.

Carnival Pride is currently based in Baltimore where it will remain through October 2014 then reposition to Tampa for a winter cruise schedule before returning to Baltimore for year-round service in March 2015, hosting nearly 120,000 guests annually.

In anticipation of Carnival Pride's return to Baltimore, the ship will undergo an extensive multi-million-dollar makeover in fall 2014 that will add a host of dining, bar and entertainment innovations that are part of the line's \$500 million Fun Ship 2.0 product enhancement program.

In addition to the new on-board features, Carnival Pride is one of several Carnival Cruise Lines ships that will be outfitted with exhaust gas cleaning technology – known as scrubbers – designed to reduce air emissions from cruise ships and large marine vessels. Scrubber technology will be installed on Carnival Pride prior to its Baltimore deployment in spring 2015. This new technology will enable the Carnival Pride to exceed the stricter air emission standards established for operation within the North American Emission Control Area (ECA).

Carnival Pride sails into Baltimore

"Baltimore is a convenient mid-Atlantic embarkation point for 'Fun Ship' cruising and we're pleased to resume these attractive year-round departures which offer our guests an opportunity to visit a variety of beautiful, tropical destinations," said Gerry Cahill, Carnival's president and CEO. "We would like to extend our thanks to officials from the port and the state of Maryland for their outstanding support in our efforts to resume year-round cruising from Baltimore," he added.

"We are pleased to welcome Carnival Cruise Lines back to Maryland and the Carnival Pride cruise ship back to the Port of Baltimore," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "Our Administration has a proven track record of advocating for a strong, healthy environment and fighting for high-quality jobs for Maryland families. I'm pleased Carnival and the Environmental Protection Agency and Coast Guard have agreed on a plan that will keep family-supporting jobs in Maryland and allow a cleaner and even greener Carnival Pride to return to this thriving cruise market."

On its year-round deployment from Baltimore, Carnival Pride will offer two distinctly different itineraries with voyages departing every Sunday beginning March 29, 2015. Week-long exotic eastern Caribbean cruises will visit Grand Turk, the private Bahamian island of Half Moon Cay and Freeport, The Bahamas, while a Florida/Bahamas schedule will feature Port Canaveral, Fla. (Orlando), and Nassau and Freeport, The Bahamas.

During these cruises, guests can relax on beautiful white-sand beaches, participate in fun watersports activities and visit popular landmarks and attractions throughout the Caribbean, Bahamas and Central Florida.

Travel Pulse

Carnival Returns to Baltimore in 2015

Carnival Cruise Lines announced Thursday they will return the 2,124-passenger Carnival Pride to year-round service out of Baltimore in March 2015.

The ship will operate two seven-day itineraries, one to the Eastern Caribbean and the other to Florida and the Bahamas. The vessel will undergo a major renovation before the return to Baltimore that will give it the Fun Ship 2.0 features, including Guy's Burger Joint, a steep twisting waterslide, a poolside cantina and a sushi restaurant.

Perhaps more importantly, the Carnival Pride will get exhaust gas cleaning technology, commonly called scrubbers, that is designed to reduce air emissions and enable the ship to exceed stricter air emission standards established for operation within the North American Emission Control Area. The standards had threatened certain cruise itineraries near North American coastlines because they forced lines to use a costlier fuel that made those routes more expensive.

Carnival Pride is currently based in Baltimore where it will remain through October, when it will reposition to Tampa for the winter as announced in June. Now, however, the ship will return to Baltimore in March 2015 and will host about 120,000 passengers annually. Carnival began year-round Baltimore deployment with the Carnival Pride in April 2009.

The ship's return was welcome news in Baltimore, where Gov. Martin O'Malley made the announcement that was tweeted with a celebratory (but somewhat fuzzy) photo.

Beginning March 29, 2015, the ship will depart every Sunday. The Eastern Caribbean itinerary includes calls to Grand Turk, the private Bahamian island of Half Moon Cay and Freeport. The other itinerary includes visits to Port Canaveral, Nassau and Freeport.

During the three-week project in a dry dock Oct. 19-Nov. 9, the ship will get Guy's Burger Joint, the free and very popular poolside venue developed in partnership with Food Network personality Guy Fieri. Also to be added are Blue Iguana Cantina, a complimentary Mexican eatery, and Bonsai Sushi, an Asian restaurant.

The ship is also slated to get a WaterWorks aqua park highlighted by the steepest water slide at sea and the Twister slide, EA Sports Bar, the Caribbean-inspired RedFrog Pub, and Alchemy Bar, a vintage-themed cocktail "pharmacy."

The good news comes shortly after Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe announced that Carnival will once again operate a series of voyages from Norfolk, Va., in 2015.

Carnival confirmed it will operate "a series of cruises in the spring and fall" of 2015, but declined to reveal the ship, date and itinerary information. The Carnival Glory, which had operated from Norfolk, was scheduled to remain year-round in Miami as part of the deployment reshuffling that moved the Carnival Pride south.

